

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 13 to 15, 17, 18 and 21 to 25 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

II. Objection to Specification

Regarding the objection to the Specification, although this objection is not necessarily agreed with, the Specification has been amended herein to reflect the renumbering of the figures. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Objection to the Drawings

As regards the objections to the drawings, the Examiner will note that Figure 5 has been amended herein to replace reference numeral 37 with reference numeral 42. No new matter has been added. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Figure 5 is moot. Regarding the suggested insertion of reference numeral 31 in Figure 2, it is respectfully submitted that such addition is unnecessary, particularly in view of the illustration of connector 31 in Figure 4. Furthermore, while 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) requires the drawings to show every feature of the specified in the claims, “conventional features disclosed in the description and claims . . . should be” -- but are not required to be -- “illustrated in the drawing” “where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention.” In the case of the connector 31, a further illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, no further drawings are believed to be required. In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objections have been obviated, and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

IV. Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 13 to 15, 17, 18 and 21 to 25 have been allowed.

V. Conclusion

All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /  /

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